



MITT ROMNEY
GOVERNOR

KERRY HEALEY
LT. GOVERNOR

EDWARD A. FLYNN
SECRETARY

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety
Department of Fire Services
P.O. Box 1025 ~ State Road

Stow, Massachusetts 01775

(978) 567~3100 Fax: (978) 567~3121



STEPHEN D. COAN
STATE FIRE MARSHAL

THOMAS P. LEONARD
DEPUTY STATE FIRE MARSHAL

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Contact: Jennifer Mieth (978) 567-3381

Reading Fire Caused By Misuse of Smoking Materials

State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan, Reading Fire Chief Gregory Burns, and Reading Police Chief James Cormier announced the joint investigation into the March 10, 2006 fire at 93 Pine Ridge Road, Reading has determined the cause was misuse of smoking materials.

The fire started in an upholstered chair in the first floor breezeway and was reported about 11:30 p.m. No one was home at the time of the fire but there had been a gathering of young adults earlier in the evening where smoking took place. Smoking materials can smolder inside upholstered furniture for a long time before there is any external sign of fire.

The fire was jointly investigated by investigators in the Reading Fire Department and the Reading Police Department, and State Police assigned to the Office of the State Fire Marshal.

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